(a) whether an alleged case of fraud relating to income tax refund has been detected in the Reserve Bank of India, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details in this regard including the amount of loss suffered by the Government as a result thereof;

(c) whether some Government/RBI officials have been found to be involved in the matter; and

(d) if so, the action taken against them and also for preventing such alleged frauds in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (d). In January, 1992, a case of fraud relating to income-tax refunds came to the notice of the Reserve Bank of India and the Income-tax Department. A check by the Income-tax Department showed that some refund voucher books were missing. An F.I.R. has been filed with the police who are investigating the case.

The enquiries made so far show that refunds amounting to about Rs. 6 lakhs have been fraudulently encashed.

The Police have arrested some persons including some officials of the Reserve Bank of India and one official of the Income-tax Department who has been suspended. Investigations are still in progress.

Very recently, in December, 1991, instructions had been issued emphasising the need for safe custody and security of refund order books with a view to prevent frauds in encashment of refunds.

Import of cotton

861. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY:
SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM:
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEA:
SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to import several lakhs of cotton bales under open General Licence Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of agencies through which these bales are likely to be imported;

(c) the reasons for importing these bales;

(d) the amount of foreign exchange likely to be incurred thereon; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to produce more cotton for domestic and export purposes with a view to save foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (d). The matter is under consideration of the Government.

(e) A centrally sponsored Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP) is being implemented in 11 cotton growing States under which assistance is being provided for production and distribution of certified seeds, Integrated Best Management, farmers training programme, etc.

Intrusion by Pakistani Marine Security Force

862. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakistani Marine Security Force squad intruded into the Indian territorial waters of Jakhau port in Kutch district on the Republic Day eve;

(b) if so, the details of the incident; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b). Two incidents of alleged harassment of Indian fishermen by the Pakistani Maritime Security Agency were reported to the Commanding officer Coast Guard Station. Okha, on the 27th January 1992. the reports claimed that 5 Indian fishing boats were looted and relieved of their fish catch, fishing gear and fuel, amounting to approximately Rs. 6 lakhs. The exact locations of the reported incidents could not be established by the fishermen.

(c) The Coast Guard ships and aircraft carry out regular patrolling/surveillance in the Indian EEZ and maintain a constant vigil on the Indian side of the national Intentional Boundary Line (IBL).

Closure of some Departments Under Ministry of Commerce

863. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to close down some departments under the control of his Ministry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). No, Sir.

Introduction of New D.T.C. Service

864. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:
DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY:
SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK:
SHRI SURYA NARAIN YADAV:
SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI:
SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA:
SHRI P.M. SAYEED:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of routes of 'Greenline' and Limited Stop' buses plying under D.T.C. operation as on date;

(b) the details of new routes on which these buses are likely to be started;

(c) whether a large number of ordinary buses have been replaced by these buses recently as a result of which people are forced to pay more per journey;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and how the old withdrawn buses are being utilised; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to increase the number of ordinary buses specially during peak hours?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) As on date D.T.C. Operates 68 Greenline routes and 2432 Limited Stop Trips.

(b) The routes on which these buses will be started in future will be based on the assessment made on the basis of commuters' demands and availability of buses.

(c) and (d). During the last six months